

# *The Joseph P. Kennedy, Jr. Foundation*

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(202) 347-1731

April 1, 1972

Dear ~~Dr. Lederberg~~:

*Tosh* : -

It is now six months since the Kennedy Foundation announced its grant of \$1.35 million to establish the Kennedy Institute for the Study of Human Reproduction and Bioethics at Georgetown University. As temporary chairman of the International Board of Advisors, I wanted to give you an early report on the progress which has been made since the start-up.

Most significant is the fact that the Kennedy Institute is already in full operation. Even though the actual new building financed by the Kennedy Foundation grant cannot be finished for at least a few years, nevertheless, the Kennedy Institute is operating in a large, rented facility immediately adjacent to the Georgetown campus. The official address is:

The Joseph and Rose Kennedy Institute for the Study  
of Human Reproduction and Bioethics  
Georgetown University Hospital  
3800 Reservoir Road, N.W.  
Washington, D. C. 20007

Five ethicists/moralists are already at work. Brief biographical sketches of these men are attached hereto. Four of them are supported by the Kennedy Foundation grant, and they are known as Kennedy Senior Research Scholars in Bioethics. The other one is financed by Georgetown University. To bring this part of the total Kennedy Institute to our maximum current desires, we are seeking money to add four additional Senior Research Scholars at the \$25 thousand-per-annum level, and training grants for four to eight pre-doctoral candidates at the \$6 - 8 thousand level. This group of scholars is already developing an "Encyclopedia of Bioethics," which would be the first such encyclopedia in the world. The editor is Warren Reich.

Dr. Andre Hellegers is also presently negotiating with a private European Foundation to have European ethicists supported for studies at Georgetown.

As these developments proceed, the Kennedy Institute is also perfecting its plans for a Bioethics Information Center. The director of this Center will be Dr. Leroy Walters, and it will require approximately four librarian abstractors, several assistants, typists and other personnel to enable it to create a unique resource for scholars, legislators, editors and journalists seeking accurate information on a world-wide basis concerning the existing literature and current thinking in the bioethics area. This project will require approximately \$75 thousand per annum. I am happy to indicate that we are optimistic that the funding for this project will be obtained within the next few months.

The Kennedy Institute at Georgetown is also exploring the desirability and feasibility of creating a new scholarly journal to be known as the "Journal of Bioethics." Money has already been assured, if, in fact, the Georgetown analysis indicates the desirability of creating such a journal. If this project is approved by the faculty and counselors of the Georgetown Center, it would be our hope to inaugurate its operation with publication in the third quarter of 1973.

Another interesting possibility arises from our hope that the United States Government, through the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare, and the National Institutes of Health, will select the Kennedy Center at Georgetown as one of the five remaining national centers for the study of population. Five such centers have already been created, but five additional ones are authorized and will be selected in the not-too-distant future. We are hoping that Georgetown will be one of those selected, especially since Georgetown is one of the few applicants which has the capability for studying the ethical implications of proposals concerning population.

NBC has approached Georgetown for the production of ten half-hour television programs to be shown in major American cities. It is the University's plan to have scholars from other universities, such as Johns Hopkins, Harvard, Yale and Princeton participate in these.

These physical and tangible developments arising from the start-up of the Kennedy Institute at Georgetown should not obscure the extraordinary repercussions which have followed both the inauguration of the Kennedy Institute and the Kennedy Symposium held in October in Washington. Not only has the Kennedy Institute been inundated with requests for popular

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explanations of its work and applications for jobs from students and potential faculty members, but also overseas new developments have occurred. For example, in France two institutes are in the process of being inaugurated precisely in the area of bioethics. Both of these institutes stem directly from the Kennedy Symposium and the description of the Kennedy Institute at Georgetown, which has been widely publicized in Europe. We believe that the subject of bioethics and even the field, if it is not premature to speak of there being a field of bioethics, are well on the way to becoming significant new areas for scholarly research and for work useful in many different ways to the public at large.

Thank you for your continued interest in the Kennedy Institute at Georgetown. We welcome any suggestions and help you may be willing to give.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Varge", written over a horizontal line.

Sargent Shriver

P.S. You will note from the biographies attached hereto, that four of the five Institute Research Scholars in Ethics are Roman Catholics, and only one is a Protestant -- Dr. LeRoy Walters, who is a Mennonite; but, I wanted you to know that we have been urgently seeking more Protestant ethicists and, of course, one or more outstanding Jewish scholars. The next people to be appointed will, undoubtedly, include Protestant and Jewish scholars. We would have happily invited them to serve from the outset, if we had been able to reach them and enlist them in this program. However, we had to start up; so, first of all, we turned to those we could contact. As you can see, they are all men of great competence and achievement. We are very happy about these first appointments.

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